

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device for coupling optical fibers, comprising at least one module (1, 1'), which is formed by at least one receiving device (3, 3') for receiving at least two cassettes (2, 2'), a cassette (2, 2') being formed with at least one coupling element (26), wherein at least one buffered fiber can be fixed on the module (1, 1'), it being possible for the buffered fiber to be subdivided into at least two strands, comprising at least one optical fiber, a cassette (2, 2') being able to receive a strand with excess length, the at least one optical fiber being able to be connected to the coupling element (26), and the cassette (2, 2') with the received strand being connected in a non-permanent manner to the receiving device (3, 3').
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cassette (2, 2') is formed with at least one guide element (22, 23, 24), the guide element (22, 23, 24) defining at least one path for receiving at least one strand and a minimum radius of curvature of the path being greater than a minimum-permissible bending radius of the strand.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the optical fibers of a strand can be assigned to a circuit or circuits dependent on one another.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the cassettes (2, 2') are formed as single-fiber cassettes, to which a circuit can be assigned.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in ~~one of the said claims~~ claim 1, wherein the coupling element (26) of the cassette (2') can be connected to an optical fiber element (5) which is formed with a plug-in contact (52), at least at an end remote from the coupling element (26), it being possible by means of the coupling element to connect the optical fiber element (5) to at least one optical fiber of the strand.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in ~~one of the said claims~~ claim 1, wherein the coupling element (26) is formed as a splicing element.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in ~~one of the said claims~~ claim 1, wherein the receiving device (3, 3') comprises at least one guide rail (31, 31'), which can be firmly connected to the module (1, 1').

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in ~~one of the said claims~~ claim 1, wherein the receiving device (3, 3') is formed with a pivoting mechanism.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pivoting mechanism is formed with at least one spindle (34) and the cassette (2, 2') is formed with a complementary groove (27).

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the receiving device (3') comprises a knurled screw (36).